

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) A stable, aqueous froth comprising a) one or more copolymers or interpolymers of ethylene and/or 1-propene with or without other monomers selected from C₄ to C₁₀ olefins and having an ethylene or 1-propene content from about 2-98 weight percent; b) water; c) a frothing surfactant; and d) a gas; where the components comprise about: a) 35 to 75 percent, b) 35 to 75 percent and c) 1 to 6 percent of the combined weight of a), b) and c), and d) is present in an amount such that d) comprises at least 80 percent of the total volume of all components present in the froth.
2. (Original) The froth of Claim 1 which further comprises component e) a foam stabilizer selected from: alkylcellulose ethers, hydroxyalkyl cellulose ethers, hydroxyalkyl alkylcellulose ethers, guar gum, xanthan gum, and polyoxyethylene resins of at least 20,000 molecular weight, said component e) present in the amount of from about 0.05 to about 2 percent based on the dry weight of component a) polymer.
3. (Original) The froth of Claim 1 where component a) is a copolymer of ethylene with an alpha-olefin comonomer of from 3 to 10 carbon atoms.
4. (Original) The froth of Claim 3 where the alpha-olefin comonomer is selected from 1-propene, 1-butene, 1-hexene and 1-octene and component a) has a melt index between about 0.5 and about 30 g/10 min as determined by ASTM D1238 (condition 190 deg C./2.16 kg).
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23. (Original) An absorbent article selected from a baby diaper, a feminine hygiene product, an adult incontinence hygiene product, a wound dressing pad, a surgical sponge, a food packaging pad, a wiping towel and a wiping sponge, where the article comprises a component made from the foam of Claim 5, 15 or 16.
24. (Original) A laminate comprising (a) at least one layer of the Froth of any one of Claims 1-4, and (b) at least one substrate layer on which the said Froth layer is laid, doctored or spread.
25. (Original) A laminate of Claim 24 wherein (b) the at least one substrate layer is prepared from a layer of a second Froth, a preformed open-cell foam, a thermoplastic sheet or film, a woven or non-woven fabric, or melt spun-bonded or melt-blown material.
26. (Original) A laminated structure comprising (a) at least one layer of the Foam of any one of Claims 5-19, and (b) at least one substrate layer to which said Foam layer is adhered.
27. (Original) A laminated structure of Claim 26 wherein (b) the at least one substrate layer is selected from a layer of a second open-cell foam, a thermoplastic sheet or film, a woven or non-woven fabric, or melt spun-bonded or melt-blown material.
28. (Original) An absorbent article selected from a baby diaper, a feminine hygiene product, an adult incontinence hygiene product, a wound dressing pad, a surgical sponge, a medical garment, a surgical drapery, a wiping towel, a wiping sponge and a food packaging pad, where the article comprises a component made from the laminated structure of Claim 27.
29. (Original) A method of making a durable, open-cell foam comprising the steps of:
 - (1) generating the froth of any of Claims 1-4;
 - (2) thereafter subjecting said froth to at least one drying energy source to provide a durable, open-cell foam, in a fashion such that the volume of said resulting foam consists of not less than 70 volume percent of the volume of said froth; and
 - (3) thereafter recovering the durable, open-cell foam.
30. (Original) The method of Claim 29 wherein step (2) the drying energy source is selected from a heated air generator, an infrared ray generator, a dielectric heating device, and any combination or multiplicity thereof.
31. (Original) The method of Claim 29 further characterized in that the froth is continuously generated and thereafter said froth is continuously subjected to the at least one drying energy source.
32. (Original) The method of Claim 29 further characterized in that said froth in step (2) is subjected to a combination of at least two drying energy sources, either simultaneously or in sequence.
33. (Original) The method of Claim 32 where in step (2) the drying energy sources are selected from at least one heated air generator, at least one infrared ray generator and at least one dielectric heating device.
34. (Original) The method of Claim 29 further characterized in that prior to or after recovery the open cell foam is, on at least one major surface, subjected to heating that softens substantially all of such major surface to a distance of at least 2 percent of the foam's initial thickness below the surface, and while so softened a major portion of that major surface is

compressed with a pressure sufficient to convert a plurality of cells, at or near that major surface, to a three-dimensional ellipsoidal shape the major axis of which is aligned generally parallel to said major surface.

35. (Original) An aqueous dispersion comprising the resultant combination of (a) a semi-crystalline, thermoformable olefin polymer; (b) a long chain fatty acid of greater than 18 carbon atoms, (c) deionized water, and (d) a base, wherein the dispersion has a solids content of about 67 percent.